

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 10 August 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham

Present: Paul Savage (Chairman), Lesley Bonshor,
Michael Brandon-Jones, Peter Cobb, David Edleston, David Skinner

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

1 Apologies

John Pitchers

Not present – Keith Bacon

2 Minutes of the meeting of 11 May 2015.

The minutes had been circulated and were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

It was agreed that, in future, the Administrator should also circulate the minutes of the Main and Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C). She would ask the SRS-C if they would like to receive the minutes of Northern Rivers Sub-Committee meetings. All members agreed that, in future, they would be happy to dispense with hard copy of all meeting papers. It was also suggested that a joint meeting with SRS-C would be useful.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Cess Staithe (Minute 4.1)
Nothing to report

4.2 BA Mooring and Access Strategy (Minute 4.2)

The Strategy document had been published. The Chairman pointed out that it was not what he would call a strategy. Members of the Main Committee had suggested that the BA needed a better strategy for mooring design which was currently industrial in character and more suited for harbours rather than rural locations.

4.3 Listed cottage on May Gurney Site (Minute 4.4)
The site had been tidied up and, although not completely clear of vegetation, its appearance had been greatly improved.

4.4 Broads Local List Review (Minute 4.4)
The Administrator had received a letter from Kayleigh Wood BA confirming that the chalet proposed by the Society had been included on the local list. She would check which property had been selected.

5 Matters arising from the Main Committee – 21 July 2015

5.1 Paul Savage highlighted the most significant issues discussed.
Report by Trudi Wakelin on the following issues:

Improvement of Water Quality – Hickling Broad

Disposal of boat waste [*see also Minute 7.2*]
Progress on survey of staithes
Ludham bridge footpath
Footpath diversion at Thurne Mouth
Repair of Mutford Lock
River Wensum Strategy Consultation
Turn Tide Jetty
Landscape Partnership to Heritage Lottery Fund

5.2 Hoveton Great Broad

The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced the award of nearly £2m of funding to restore the ecology of Hoveton Great Broad. An on-line petition has been set up to demand that the Lottery Fund should require the Broad be opened for full public access as a pre-condition of public money being allocated. Members are encouraged to sign the petition.

5.3 Branding the Broads

The application for a judicial review by a local landowner has been refused.

Paul Savage is pursuing the matter of appointment for appointing members of the Broads Authority.

5.4 Finance

The deficit for 2014-2015 is lower than the preceding year due to cost cutting measures.

5.5 CNP

Preliminary work has begun on organising the 2016 National Park Societies Conference 22-23 October 2016.

5.6 Broads Charitable Trust

New Trustees have been appointed.

5.7 Junior Membership

The Working Group plans to encourage young people to enter the photographic competition through publicity in local schools.

5.8 Underground of electricity pylons

Lesley Marsden, BA Landscape Officer), who led this project, has now left the Broads Authority

5.9 Future of the Society

The Main Committee discussed the future of the Society bearing in mind that Chairman will be standing down in November 2016, Nick Balls and Ian Masters will have completed their 6 year term as committee members in November 2015 and no one has offered to take on the role of Editor.

6 Norfolk Hub and NDR

The first stage of the NDR has been approved.

7 Issues Relating to the Society's Mission

7.1 Riverside Walk

This has been a very successful event and members thanked David Edleston for leading the walk. Members of the Southern Rivers and Main Committee had been invited and it was agreed that this policy should be continued for future outings. David offered to organise future outings, either on boat or on foot. Members were asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting. A route starting at Potter Heigham, was suggested.

7.2 Other Initiatives

Following on from the report on Waste Management by Trudi Wakelin (Minute 5.1), it was agreed to conduct a survey of sites in the Broads where rubbish disposal was a problem. Members were asked to provide photographs which could be used to illustrate the situation.

The Administrator undertook to investigate whether riparian owners had a legal obligation for cutting back overhanging trees alongside their property.

7 Planning

7.1 Planning applications since 1 April 2015

A list had been circulated.

Application 4016 – Change of Use of Berney Arms.

David Edleston read out a draft response setting out the reasons for objecting to the closure of the pub and conversion to a residential dwelling.

This was endorsed by members and the Administrator undertook to submit the comments to the BA Planning Department.

8.2 Refusals and Withdrawn Applications

3982 – 11 Upper Street, Horning – extension and conversion of outbuilding to residential accommodation - withdrawn

8.3 New applications to considered

Three new applications were considered, none of which gave cause for concern.

8.4 Other planning matters

David Edleston suggested that it would make more sense for the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee to handle applications for parishes on both sides of the River Yare. The Administrator would make this proposal to the SRS-C at their next meeting on 19 September.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 12 October 2015. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed

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